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## How to submit a book for State of the Arts

To submit a book by a Montana author for inclusion in *State of the Arts*' "About Books" section:

Please send a copy of the book to *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824; or submit the following information electronically to [writaus@livelytimes.com](mailto:writaus@livelytimes.com) or [mac@mt.gov](mailto:mac@mt.gov):

- Title, author, publisher, publisher's address and month/year published;
- Price and whether it's hard- or softcover;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf, jpg or tiff file;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

If you would like us to return the book, include a note with it saying so. (We will pay for shipping.)

E-books: We'll also mention books that are only electronically published: send title, author, a cover image, website for downloads, and a brief paragraph about the book.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council's discretion and as space permits, and will not necessarily be reprinted in *Lively Times*.

## ABOUT BOOKS

### *Camping in Wyoming, A 1910 Wedding Trip to Yellowstone National Park*

By Mariam Lawton Clayton, edited by Mitchell "Sandy" Compton, Jr.

Published 2014 by Blue Creek Press, Heron, MT

\$10 softcover

This charming and slim volume is actually the journal of Sandy Compton's grandmother that he was fortunate enough to inherit from his mother. With stellar penmanship, Mariam Clayton recorded her honeymoon trip to Yellowstone Park in 1910.

The couple's journey from Kansas was accomplished by means of a rail trip, a hired motorcar and finally, from Boulder, WY, to Yellowstone, a heavy-duty horse-drawn wagon outfitted for roughing it.

Mariam noted, "We had no definite idea of distance or trail, but we planned to live in the open and take what came." The road to their destination was sometimes little more than a cow path.

The author augments descriptions of the landscapes they traversed with "kodacs" – black and white photos that her husband, Earl, developed using the contact-print method. Her descriptions of Yellowstone's most famous features still ring true today. Old Faithful performed, scattering a "shower of frost jewels and the rainbow tints of the falling water ..."

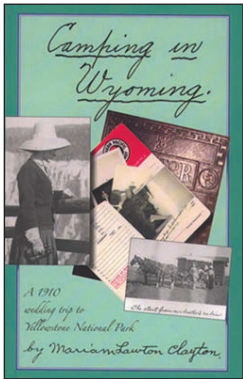
Camping was primitive, but Mariam noted that Fort Yellowstone, at Mammoth Hot Springs, offered some semblance of a settlement, hosting several curio shops, a hotel, post office and army officers' quarters.

As the Claytons neared the end of their adventure, they were advised to hurry as a forest fire could threaten their route. Besides, the weather was turning very cold, and freezing their food supplies during the nighttime hours.

As Mariam and Earl prepared to board the train home from Rock Springs, WY, they concluded that they were "well pleased" with their journey. Her journal offers a pleasant and sentimental look at an extraordinary place by an observant and adventurous young woman.

Sandy Compton, Jr. runs the Blue Creek Press, and has written several books, the most recent being *The Girl Who Would Not Stop Running*.

– Judy Shafter



### *The Dishwater Tree*

By Angela Janacaro

Published 2014 by Raven Publishing, Norris, MT

\$15 softcover

High atop a dry bench of land in eastern Montana, a weeping willow tree thrives, seemingly out of place for the setting. How the tree came to dominate the landscape is the centerpiece for Angela Janacaro's compelling story of the intersection of the lives of three women.

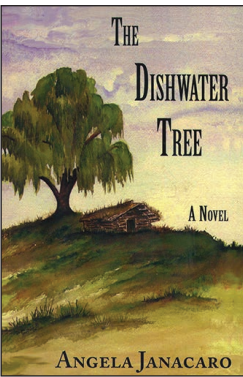
Coming to terms with her terminal cancer diagnosis, Worthy Chambers has one last wish: to find out who left her on the doorstep of an orphanage some 80 years ago. Her daughter, Marie, a successful attorney living in San Francisco, returns to Miles City for a visit and gets caught up in her mother's quest to uncover her past. With the help of an old high school flame and a lead from a local nurse, events begin to come into focus for Marie and her mother.

The narrative steps back in time to 1922, in Wallace, ID, where the lovely young Josephine Rourke is engaged to marry a man she does not love. A chance meeting with a young miner from Butte, blossoms into a relationship that is forbidden and dangerous.

The author's debut novel skillfully weaves the past with the present, intertwining the lives of her characters in a tender and believable drama. The title is derived from the gesture of watering trees and gardens with the spent dishwater when rainfall was sparse and nothing was wasted.

Janacaro is a Montana native, and a graduate of The University of Montana. She lives with her family in Townsend.

– Judy Shafter



### *Talk About a Dream*

By Glenn Marx

Published 2013 by the author and printed by Whitehall Printing in Naples, FL

\$19.95 softcover

By Doug Mitchell (This review originally appeared in the January/February issue of Montana Magazine, and is reprinted with permission.)

Most first novels are short, tentative works. Not this one.

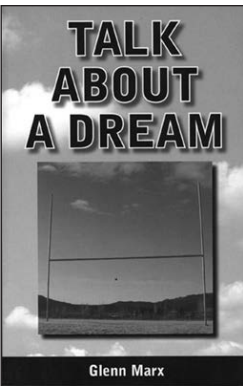
*Talk About a Dream* is a 613-page tour de force written night after night from a recliner in Whitehall by a former small-town newspaper owner.

The book was designed not for publication, but as a story for his kids. You see, author Glenn Marx and his wife, Terri, had just become empty nesters. They had sold the *Whitehall Ledger* and Glenn wanted to find a way to communicate with his adult children.

Like any good father might do, he decided to tell them a story. And it's quite a story.

First, a brief disclaimer: Glenn is a friend of mine. He is kind, thoughtful and shockingly smart. These facts made this particular reviewing assignment both tricky and risky. I am generally quite skeptical of self-published books, and of books written by friends. I was worried that I would have to find polite words to say the book was "interesting" and "well intended" – code for not very good.

Within pages of starting *Talk About a Dream*, I knew my worries were unfounded ...



*Talk About a Dream* is, on its surface, a fictional account of a year in the life of Whitehall. It's told through the eyes of Lance Joslyn, a local newspaper publisher (sound familiar?). The book is set around a magical football season and a mystical character named Jerry "Jersey" Conte who appears seemingly out of nowhere and becomes the head football coach and much more.

*Talk About a Dream* is one of those books you want to savor. Glenn has crafted a set of characters so rich and familiar that reading the book feels like an intimate act of being inside the story. I found myself rationing my reading to make the story last longer, an admittedly odd reaction to a book that is epic in its length (and weight).

Therein lay the genius of the author who somehow has taken a story meant for his adult son and daughter and turned it into a tale for all of us.

On top of that, *Talk About a Dream* is being used to help a worthy cause. All proceeds benefit Whitehall's historic Star Theatre – one of the places that is home to some of the book's scenes.

Glenn told me over lunch he thought his book "had a good heart." It does and so does he. Doug Mitchell (Reprinted with permission of *Montana Magazine*)

Revenue from book sales originally helped fund *Save the Star*, to help raise funds to purchase digital technology for the local movie theater. Since then, proceeds from this book will help fund Jefferson Valley Community Foundation youth programs. Copies may be ordered at [www.whitehallledger.com](http://www.whitehallledger.com).

### *The Collotypes of L. A. Huffman*

Montana Frontier Photographer

By Gene and Bev Allen

Published by the authors and distributed by Riverbend Publishing, Helena, MT

\$50 hardcover

When L. A. Huffman arrived in Miles City, Montana Territory, in 1879, hostilities between early settlers and Native Americans were drawing to a close and reservation life was beginning. The demise of the last great buffalo herd was near, making way for large-scale cattle ranching. The railroad arrived, and farmers, with their plows and fences, began to permanently alter the eastern Montana landscape.

Huffman was there, taking photos of the beginning, heyday, and end of the open-range cattle days. Today, his images provide a valuable glimpse into the past.

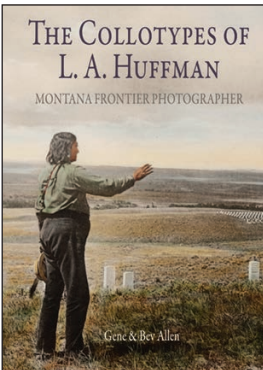
Like many other early photographers, Huffman used photomechanical prints, called collotypes, to supplement his darkroom production. These high-quality images are easily mistaken for photo prints, and have caused much confusion among historians and collectors alike.

Authors Gene and Bev Allen – avid collectors of Huffman's images for more than 20 years – aim to end that confusion with this book, which tells how to identify a collotype print, explains when and where many of Huffman's collotypes were produced, and gives a detailed description of each individual collotype. It also features a quick reference chart.

This fascinating collection and the couple's extensive knowledge add an important page to the annals of western art and history.

The collotypes cover the full range of Huffman's work, including buffalo and buffalo hunts, Native Americans, freight teams, sheep, cowboys, cattle roundups, and farming. The book has more than 140 illustrations, many in color, and includes at least one of each known collotype; most are accompanied by a description of the image in Huffman's own words.

The Allens are natives of Jamestown, ND, and have spent most of the last half century in Bozeman. Collecting vintage works by Huffman has been a special focus for 20 years, and some of their images appear in Larry Peterson's 2003 book, *L. A. Huffman: Photographer of the American West*.



### *Dakota*

By Gwen Florio

Published 2014 by the Permanent Press, Sag Harbor, NY

\$28 hardcover

Reporter Lola Wicks seems to have a nose for trouble. It's taken her to war-ravished countries around the world as a foreign correspondent, and lands her in the midst of North Dakota's oil patch in this sequel to Gwen Florio's debut, *Montana*.

The story begins with a dead body – young Judith Looking Calf, found frozen in a snowbank on the edge of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Lola, who works for the tiny *Magpie Daily Expressa*, shouldn't be covering a possible crime because she's sleeping with the county sheriff, Charlie Laurendeau.

She convinces her editor to let her travel to Burnt Fork, ND, to write a story on reservation men who work in the oil patch. She can't help asking local sheriff Thor Brevik about the dead girl too. The sheriff – a former rodeo star crippled after a bull stomped on his backbone – shares his office with the ominous, oversized Dawg, a "sort of" deputy who can't be the real thing because he can't pass a background check.

Dead bodies keep showing up in Burnt Fork, seemingly in Lola's wake. Double Derricks, a stripper she interviewed at the Sweet Crude, winds up with a broken neck; two oil-patch workers she plans to meet for dinner are killed in a drilling accident. But Lola keeps asking difficult questions about Judith and other missing reservation girls, even after a brutal beating by a Goliath wearing a ski mask and steel-toed boots.

The trail eventually leads to a trailer in the well-fortified "man camp" in an ending that bristles with intensity and surprise.

Florio's second book is not only a chilling, well-crafted tale; it also explores the underbelly of the oil boom and what happens to a small, rural town when big money rolls in, and men outnumber women 50 to one.

"The writing is top-notch, the action builds at just the right pace, and Lola Wicks is going to be around for a long, long time," predicts *Kirkus Reviews*.

Florio, a veteran journalist whose stories have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, lives in Missoula. Her first novel, *Montana*, won one of the inaugural Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction.

– Kristi Niemeyer

